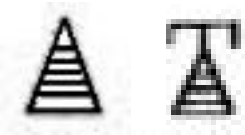
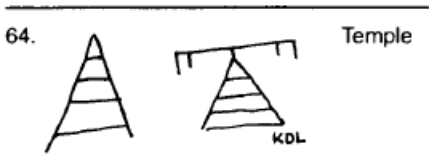
# The cone symbol indicates the pathway to heaven.

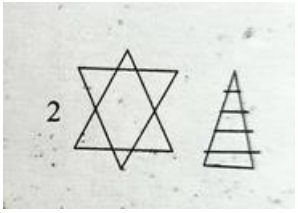


There are two types of cone symbols in TN pottery graffiti. One is an ordinary cone, and the second has a 'sky' symbol over it. I have been working on this cone symbol for a very long time. I have already analysed this cone symbol in my earlier article, 'cone symbol means – given eternal life'. (1) Please read this article for more information; I am not repeating the details to avoid duplicity. Only additional information is given here.

This cone symbol indicates the Egyptian god 'Heh', who gave the dead person's soul eternal life. The above-given Indus symbol is very similar to the pottery graffiti of Tamil Nadu.

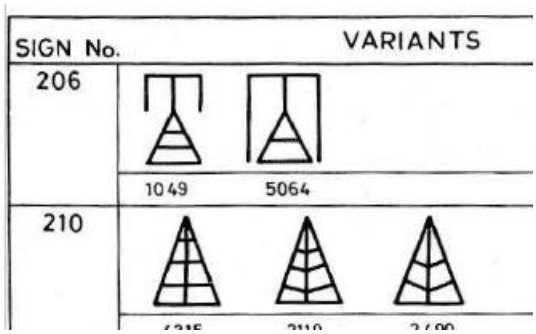



This cone symbol is taken from the book of Gurumurthy (page 68). Note the similarity; both are looking the same. (2) This graffiti above is from Kodumanal near Tiruppur.

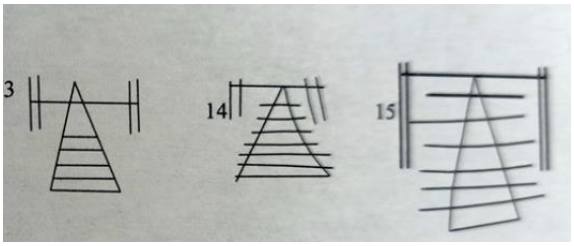



Now, see the above picture extracted from the book of K. Rajan (page 94). This above graffiti is from Porundal, near Palani (TN). This graffiti gives additional information unavailable in Indus Valley civilisation (IVC) symbols. What is that extra information? A star accompanies the cone symbol.

It is significant because I have already explained in my article that the cone symbol indicates the star Sothis in the Sirius constellation (Canis Major). Astonishingly, this star graffiti in Tamil Nadu has justified my earlier interpretation. So, the inference can be that the cone symbol indicates goddess Sothis and her son 'Heh'. I have already explained that he could give a million years of afterlife. Under Indian circumstances, this Egyptian god 'Heh' is known as Ayyappan in south India.




See the above variants of the cone symbol, according to Iravatham Mahadevan. This does not give good information about the cone symbol. Now, consider the graffiti below from Tamil Nadu; it provides additional information.



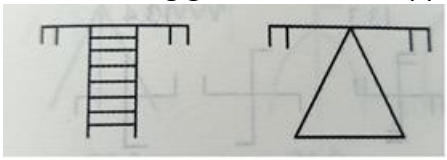

Now, see another graffiti from the book of Rajan (page 94). (3)There are three more graffiti pieces from Porundal near Palani. These logos look very similar to the IVC cone symbol. But there is additional information. There is a cot-like symbol with four legs over the come symbol. What could be the meaning of this cot?

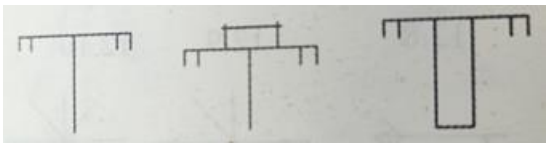
The first article in my book, ' Indus Symbols Dictionary', is "Agnistoma Yajna for uplifting the dead man's soul to heaven". My observation on this issue is reproduced as follows:

*In his book "Egyptian Magic", Wallis Budge explains that miniature models of ladders (Talisman size) have often been found in Egyptian tombs, and they believed that by using the ladder, the dead man could climb up to heaven. The ancient Egyptians believed the sky was made of an immense rectangular iron plate. The four corners of the iron plate rested upon four pillars that served to mark the cardinal points. (4)*

Note the high-lit sentences: the sky (Heaven) is an immense rectangular plate with four iron pillars supporting four corners. This description exactly tallies with the graffiti symbol of Tamil Nadu. As discussed earlier, this graffiti is found in funeral pots, and this cone symbol indicates the man inside the pot has reached heaven with the help of the god Heh (Ayyappan). The cone is marked with parallel lines, suggesting that it acted as a ladder to climb to heaven.

The following graffiti further supports this observation.





Note the above ladder and cone symbol variants per Rajan's book [Thonmai Tamil Iyal (Tamil) ] Page 125. These graffiti pieces are from Kodumanal, near Thirupur, TN. These variants indicate that the ladder leads one soul to heaven. Similarly, cone also does the same work, leading a soul to heaven. Such clarity is not available in IVC symbols.

One notable point about graffiti marking is that the priest who had scratched his symbols had limited options; it is very difficult to scratch on a fired pot, unlike the IVC seal, where the priest had all the time to design the seal. The pot graffiti is unclear, and the Tamil priest had limited options. Hence, his few lines indicate the essential characteristics of the intended idea.

## Significance of 18 steps

In the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala, the 18 steps, known as "Pathinettampadi", are considered highly significant as they symbolise the journey of a devotee to overcome their worldly desires and reach spiritual enlightenment, with each step representing a different aspect of human nature like the five senses, eight negative emotions, three gunas (qualities), and finally, knowledge and ignorance, allowing only those who ascend them to have the "darshan" (vision) of Lord Ayyappa after purification. (5)

Spiritual significance: Climbing the 18 steps is a crucial part of the pilgrimage, as it signifies the devotee's conscious effort to transcend worldly attachments and attain spiritual purity before reaching the deity. (5) Similar is the idea behind the 18 steps of Karuppasami temple at Alagar Koil, Madurai. However, these steps are closed, and the tower is opened only once a year.

The relevance of narrating this information is that this 18 step of worship exists only in the two temples mentioned above. It is similar to the steps indicated in the 'cone symbol'. The cone symbol likely represented the idea of climbing the 18 steps to reach heaven.

## References

1. **Jeyakumar(Cone-symbol).** Cone symbol means Given eternal life. *https://www.academia.edu.* [Online] 2018. https://www.academia.edu/41094648/Cone_symbol_means_Given_eternal_life.

2. **Gurumurthy .S.** *Deciphering the Inus script.* Chennai. : University of Madras, Chennai., 1999.

3. **Rajan., K.** *Thonmai Tamizh Iyal (in Tamil).* Chennai : International Institute of Tamil Studies., 2018.

4. **Budge, Wallis.** *Egypt and Chaldaea, Volume -II: Egyptian Magic.* London. : Kegan Paul & Co Ltd., 1901.

5. **Wikipedia(Pathinettampadi).** Pathinettampadi. [Online]